

(3) Private -

No.

Wm Lloyd Garrison

Newtown - 2 Mo 22nd 1853

Dear friend,

25-

Thou wilt look at my name, perhaps, on the receipt of this communication, and it will fail to bring to thy remembrance, any one with whom thou hast any acquaintance - for we have never met, face to face - nevertheless, with thee, or with thy name, I have long been familiar; and with many others, have united in ascribing unto thee, much honor & renown for what we have known and heard, of thy indefatigable efforts in the cause of the poor & oppressed colored race; whom we acknowledge to be our brethren & sisters; and equally, with us, the objects of our Heavenly Father's love and regard; I am endeavoring to be a faithful and obedient child of this great & good Almighty Father, and to follow him in the way of his leadings; tho' this should bring me to lay down my life for his cause - This is all I can offer by way of explanation, why I now address thee & because I feel that it has been laid upon me, and remains a burden on my spirit, until I shall, under the cross to my natural will, comply with what I believe to be a Divine requisition; hoping thou wilt receive it, in the love and simplicity with which it is given - for most assuredly I have not been permitted "to behold the mote in my brother's eye, without considering the beam in my own eye" - May we both come to that Light which is given to every one to profit withal, which can alone show us our true state & condition - No one, I am persuaded ever,

was favored to feel himself in the awful presence of an all wise, and all powerful, just & gracious God, who is truly the Searcher of Hearts; without being brought into humiliation & a state of true self-abasement! for the nearer we draw to Divine Power & goodness, the more humble & insignificant we feel ourselves! If thou had'st been thus favored in Cherry St. Meetg, during the "season of silence", it could not have been felt or described by thee, as appeared in thy letter, published in the Free-man of Dec. 16th. I trust it was not to all as to thee a "formal observance", of "great stupidity"! but rather a time of inward retirement [&] of silent waiting before the Lord - wherein we do know our spiritual strength renewed. When I read thy letter referred to, how was I grieved, & my feelings wounded; because, that which I esteemed sacred holy & precious, was set up a mark for scoffers & unbelievers to ridicule - even the solemn act of silent spiritual communion with the "Father of Spirits"! & that thou should's give to the world, a ludicrous acct. of a solemn assembly, who met professedly to serve & worship the most High God!! that all were not sincere humble worshippers there, thy letter I am sorry to say, gives room to doubt! - yet it does not exclude the hope, that to many, it was a time of refreshment in the presence of the Lord! We cannot, when favored with ^{His} presence, be pleased with the praise & adulation of our fellow-creatures; we cannot see that we have ever

done any good or great works; but the song of thanks-giving, will swell our hearts, as we ascribe all Honor & praise & power unto our God - If in sincerity of heart, we are seeking to show forth His praise, & His Glory, and asking his divine blessing and guidance on all our endeavors "to promote peace on earth and good will to men" then indeed shall we ^{be} enabled also, to give "Glory to God in the highest"! That this may be our happy experience my dear brother, is the fervent desire of my heart - and tho' but a feeble woman, yet am I constrained by the love of my Heavenly Father to write thus unto Thee; whether it be for my own benefit, only, or for thine; ^{I may never know;} ^{yet} I believe, I have not written in vain! May we be more attentive to the "Gift of God" in the secret of our souls - for most assuredly it is the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world - not only Slavery, cruelty & Oppression, but all sin! When the ax shall be laid at the root of the corrupt tree, then shall we be free in that liberty which the Truth can only give:

Before closing this letter (which perhaps is already too long) I want just to add, that notwithstanding more than two months have elapsed since I first read thy communication in the Freeman, it was very unexpectedly brought to mind, ^{at this time} with an intimation to write to thee — not a reply thereto - for I have neither head nor heart for controversy; but simply to query, whether such sarcasm on serious subjects, can effect any good? will it not tend rather to scatter from the Truth, instead of gathering thereto? And to judge the "Season of silence" wherein we seek to worship the Father "in spirit & in truth" to be now, with us,

us, only a "formal observance, and usually one of great stupid-
ity", is to acknowledge thyself ignorant of the way, which
our blessed Master recommended his to the woman of Sa-
maria - "God is a spirit, and they that worship him, must
worship him in spirit and in truth." Of our peculiarities
of dress &c. I have nothing to say - thou canst laugh at
them, without hurting the life of Christ. neither will
thy derision do any harm to the "Portly woman in the
high seats." I know not who she was; but can fully
understand, that before she could rise from her seat
in that house, under "concernment of mind" she was
willing to appear as a fool to the natural man, (to
whom the wisdom of God is foolishness) and to the
worldly wise also - Lucretia Mott I do know; and
have known and loved her, from my childhood. That
she and Esther Moore may be preserved in true christian
Humility, is my earnest desire; not for them only, but
for us all - for herein is safety & peace, where we shall
bear the praise of God, more than the praise of men -

Affectionately thy friend
Mary K. Janney